

Spontaneous Support of People for Celebration of 24th April

Com. Ghosh's Brilliant Analysis of Present Situation

On 24th April last, on the occasion of the twenty-sixth anniversary of foundation of the Socialist Unity Centre of India, the only real revolutionary working class party in our country, Calcutta witnessed an unprecedented mammoth gathering of lakhs and lakhs of people at the foot of the Saheed Minar. The people assembled there to hear our beloved leader and teacher, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, General Secretary of the SUCI and one of the outstanding Marxist thinkers of our times, speak on the present situation in our country and the tasks of the people. The meeting was presided over by Com. Subodh Banerjee, a member of the Central Committee of the Party.

In response to the appeal made by the Party and sincere work by its members, supporters and sympathisers to celebrate the day in a befitting manner, the masses of the people belonging to every walk of life voluntarily came forward and extended their hands of co-operation. But the Congress party tried to terrorize the people and our workers. Rebuffed by the people, they sought the help of the administration and the police who behaved as hired forces of the ruling party in this case, throwing to the winds all vestiges of administrative neutrality. Our wall-writings were erased, our posters disfigured and torn, our banners pulled down, our party offices raided, our workers arrested, houses of our workers and supporters ransacked. These nakedly illegal acts by the so-called custodians of law and order and the terror tactics of the ruling Congress party only added fuel to fire and made the people and our workers more determined to celebrate the day in a befitting manner.

Day of Processions

The day was indeed a day of people's unbounded enthusiasm. There is a saying that all roads lead to Rome. But on the day all roads actually led to the Maidan. From early morning till evening, procession after procession of thousands of agricultural labourers, peasants, industrial workers,

intellectuals, students, youths, women and children carrying in their hands innumerable red flags, decorative Party banners and festoons and placards with various demands of the people continued to pour into the city from all directions, ultimately converging on the Maidan.

Of all the processions acclaimed all through by hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic onlookers flanking both sides of the streets along which the processions passed, the several-hundred-strong procession of the Komsomol, organisation of the pioneers and young communists of the SUCI, attracted the attention of the onlookers the most.

Human Sea

Much before the scheduled time of the meeting, the Saheed Minar Maidan turned into a vast sea of people. In fact, the meeting place proved to be too small for the congregation. Unable to secure any accommodation at the meeting place, thousands of people spilled over into the Surendranath Park and the places beyond the tram lines to the east of the Maidan, completely paralysing the traffic for several hours. Failing to get a foothold on the ground, some people climbed up to the roof the hawkers' corner so that they might not miss the valuable speech of Com. Ghosh.

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MAY DAY'S CALL TO THE PEOPLE

The congress, which established the Second International, opened in Paris on 14th July 1889, on the 100th anniversary of the fall of the Bastille in the French Revolution. This congress, among others, adopted a resolution which reads: "The congress decides to organize a great international demonstration, so that in all countries and in all cities on one appointed day the toiling masses shall demand of the state authorities the legal reduction of the working day to eight hours, as well as the carrying out of other decisions of the Paris congress. Since a similar demonstration has already been decided upon for May 1, 1890 by the American Federation of Labour at its convention in St. Louis, December 1888, this day is accepted for the international demonstration. The workers of the various countries must organize their demonstrations according to conditions prevailing in each country." Thus, May Day, the red letter day in the international working class movement, was established as a day of workers' solidarity day.

In the countries, where the people led by the revolutionary proletariat have succeeded in overthrowing the exploiting classes from power and establishing their own state, the day is colourfully celebrated. In the countries, where this has not been possible and the imperialists capitalists are still in state power, the working people observe the day by expressing international working class solidarity and renewing their pledge to carry on revolutionary struggles till the imperialists capitalists are overthrown from power, the dictatorship of the proletariat is established and the foundation stone for putting an end to all sorts of exploitation of man by man and establishment of classless society is laid.

On the occasion of this great fighting day of the workers all over the world,

we express our warm revolutionary greetings to the working people of our country. On behalf of the working class of India, we convey fraternal revolutionary greetings to the workers of all other countries and assure them of our continued support for their struggles for national independence, democracy, socialism, peace and various democratic demands.

We recall, on this glorious day, the significant victories the international working class has achieved in their heroic fight against imperialism capitalism. Socialism has now become a world system covering more than one-third of the globe. The people in most of the colonial and dependent countries led by the revolutionary working class have gained national independence. The forces of peace are superior to the forces of war. World

imperialism is many times weaker than before.

While recalling with just pride this onward march of revolutionary working class movement, we, at the same time, cannot but note with serious concern the fact that since when Khrushchev usurped the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, modern revisionism has swept the world communist movement. Revisionism still remains not only the main danger before but also the main trend of international communist movement, to the great detriment of the revolutionary struggles and emancipation of the peoples in different countries from imperialist capitalist exploitation. We modestly remind our people and the peoples of other countries that when at the time of the twentieth congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, all other Communist Parties, not excluding the Communist Party of China, were extolling Khrushchev almost to the skies and characterizing the decisions of the congress as epoch-making, it was our Party alone that courageously pointed out that many of the formulations of the twentieth congress of the CPSU were fraught with the dangerous consequence of opening the flood-gate of revisionism in the international communist movement.

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Mammoth Demonstration By KKMf

Calcutta, April 24—Paschim Banga Krishak O Khet Mazur Federation today staged a massive demonstration of more than twenty thousand agricultural labourers, bargadars, poor peasants and lower middle peasants from the different districts of the state with specific demands for the amelioration of the acutely distressed condition of the rural poor.

Carrying festoons, red flags and innumerable placards containing various demands and raising slogans, they converged at about 10 in the morning at Subodh Mullick Square and then proceeded towards the Raj Bhavan in a mass deputation to the Governor to press upon their demands. The colourful mammoth mass deputation led by the leaders of the KKMf, including Com. Subodh Banerjee, President and Com. Yakub Pailan, General Secretary, was halted near the crossing of the Rani Rashmoni Road and the Red Road by a posse of armed policemen and police officers.

After about two hours' demonstration the processionists dispersed.

UTUC (Lenin Sarani)'s Call to make West Bengal Bandh on 7th May a complete success

Com. Fatick Ghosh, General Secretary of the West Bengal State Committee of the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) in a Press statement has called upon the working class in West Bengal to make the Bangla Bandh on May 7, 1974, call for which has been given jointly by different Central Trade Union Organisations, including the UTUC (Lenin Sarani), and nine left and democratic parties in the state, a complete success. "With continuous rise in the prices of all daily necessities of life and consequent fall in the real wages of the workers, the least the working class can do in the circumstances is to register a strong protest against the present capitalist regime in our country, the Congress Governments and their pro-capitalist anti-working class policies

The memorandum submitted to the Governor contained, among others, the demands for introduction of all-out state-trading in rice and paddy, the taking of full responsibility by the Government to regularly supply adequate quantity of food to the people at fair price, checking price hike, payment of unemployment allowance to the unemployed, supply of fertiliser at fair price, annulment of the enhanced rates of land revenue, cess and irrigation tax in case of the poor and lower middle peasants, withdrawal of false cases against workers of democratic movements and innocent peasants and agricultural labourers.

and activities, which are responsible for the price hike and acute sufferings of the workers and other toiling people."

Bihar to Observe Protest Day On 3rd May

Patna, April 23—The Socialist Party, SUCI, CPI(M), RSP and CPI have decided to observe 3rd May next as an all-India protest day in Bihar by staging rallies before the Block Development offices in different districts.

Com. Sankar Singh, Secretary of the Bihar State Committee of the SUCI, has appealed to the people of Bihar to join the rallies in thousands and make the protest a complete success.

Join in Thousands Law Violation Movement in West Bengal

Calcutta, April 23—Nine left and democratic parties functioning in West Bengal, namely, the CPI(M), SUCI, RSP, Forward Bloc, RCPI, MFB, SP, Workers' Party and Biplabi Bangla Congress, have decided today to observe May 3 next as an all-India protest day, in response to the call given by the left and democratic parties in the country sometime back from New Delhi, by "peaceful mass violation of laws such as order under section 144 Cr. P. C." in Calcutta and the districts. The CPI also will join it.

The mass violation of law is being organised to register a strong protest against the anti-people policies of the Congress Governments at the Centre and in the state as also to

demand immediate steps by the Governments to check the abnormal rise in the prices of food and other essential commodities and ensure their regular supply to the people in adequate quantities at fair prices.

The mass violation of laws will be followed by a Bangla Bandh on May 7, 1974.

Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary of the West Bengal State Committee of the SUCI, has appealed to the people to make the mass violation of laws a grand success by their massive participation in the movement. He has also urged upon the working class and other sections of the toiling people in West Bengal to make the Bandh on May 7 next a complete success.

Game to Disrupt United Action on 3rd May

The meeting of the left and democratic parties held at New Delhi on 4th and 5th April last decided that, in observing the all-India protest day on 3rd May, 1974, "the form of action in each State will be decided by the parties participating this meeting in consultation with such other left and democratic parties and mass organisations that broadly share the call for action by this meeting."

The SUCI participated the said meeting at New Delhi. Hence, in terms of the decision of this meeting, the SUCI in Kerala can by no means be excluded from the meeting to decide the form of action to be followed in that State to observe the all-India protest day on 3rd May next there. But the SUCI have been deliberately left out of the meeting, even though the Secretary of the Kerala State Organising Committee of the SUCI personally contacted, on 14th April last, the Secretary of the Kerala State Committee of the CPI(M) in this regard. The Kerala units of the CPI(M) and the SP, along with the KTP and the Kerala Congress, excluding the SUCI, decided in a meeting on 19th April last the form of movement to

be followed in the State on 3rd May next in gross violation of the decision of the meeting at New Delhi. Not only in Kerala but also in Delhi, similar move was started by the CPI(M) and the CPI to exclude the SUCI but, of course, the move ultimately failed.

Then again, the decision of the meeting at New Delhi clearly stipulates that only "left and democratic parties and mass organisations that share the call of action of" the New Delhi meeting should be consulted by the left and democratic parties participating in that meeting to decide the form of action on 3rd May next in a State. But in Haryana, in spite of the opposition of the SUCI, the Arya Samaj, which is not a left or democratic party but is a party representing

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Make Delhi Bandh on 3rd May Successful

New Delhi, April 22—The CPI(M), SUCI, RSP and the CPI have decided to observe Delhi Bandh on May 3, 1974 as a protest against the anti-people policies of the Government and price rise and to demand the reduction of the prices of food and other essential commodities and adequate and regular supply of them to the people by the Government.

Com. Ashoke Chowdhury, Secretary of Delhi Organising Committee of the SUCI, has urged upon the people to make the Bandh a success.

Struggle Committee Condemns Government for Police firing on Students in Bihar

Patna, April 20—At the call of the United People's Struggle Committee, composed of the SP, CPI(M), SUCI, RSP and SSP mass rallies and demonstrations before the offices of the district Collectors were staged today throughout the state in support of the state-wide movement by the students. The demonstrators strongly condemned the State Government for police firing at different places on the students and presented memorandums to the Collectors demanding, among others, (1) judicial enquiry into police firings on the students at Patna and other places in Bihar, (2) adequate compensation to the families of those who had been killed in police firing, (3) proper medical treatment, free of cost, of the injured, (4) introduction of full statutory rationing in all the cities and industrial areas in the state, (5) regular and adequate supply to the people of rice and wheat at Re. 1.00 and 75 paise per kg., (6) withdrawal of the CRP and BSF and (7) the lifting up of orders under section 144 Cr. P.C., curfew and other undemocratic orders.

CASHEW PROCESSING INDUSTRY FACES CRISIS

GOVERNMENT SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT

Cashew processing industry, mainly concentrated now in certain districts of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, is faced with a serious crisis threatening the very existence of many factories and employment of quite a large number of workers of the industry. The situation calls for a united action by the workers of the industry as a whole and their trade unions.

Cashew processing industry being a lucrative business with very little investment of capital and practically no risk, many factories have of late sprung up even in temporary sheds. As a result of this unregulated growth, the total installed capacity of the industry has gone up substantially in recent times, the installed capacity at present being about 4 lakh tonnes of raw cashew nuts a year.

But the annual production of raw nuts in our country is estimated to be roughly 1'40 lakh tonnes. Of this quantity only 60,000 tonnes or so are used by the factories for export production. Thus, there is a short fall of supply of about 2'60 lakh tonnes of raw cashew nuts every year. This shortage of raw material for the industry can be met by either increasing the internal production by extending the area under cashew plantation and improving the yield per acre or importing raw cashew nuts from abroad. It goes without saying that the former alternative would serve the country and our people better.

There is enough scope for expansion of the area under cashew plantation in our country and improving the yield per acre also. A great part of Midnapore district in West Bengal, the coastal area of Orissa and vast areas of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka now remaining practically fallow can be profitably utilised for cashew plantation. But neither the Central Government nor the respective State Government had moved in that direction in the near 27 years since the independence of our country. On the contrary, we now find that the scheme for development of 6,000 acres of

land in Orissa for cashew adopted after much dilly-dallying has been given a go on the plea of investigating the feasibility of Government participation in the project.

The present rulers of our country never miss any chance to wax eloquent on the virtues of self-reliance. We know that under capitalism self-reliance by itself does not mean betterment of the condition of the people. But nevertheless, when the Congress rulers profess self-reliance, they are supposed to practise it in formulating plans and programmes. Consistency between profession and practice on the part of the present rulers of our country is seldom marked. So notwithstanding frequent lip service to self-reliance, they thought it fit to depend on import of raw cashew nuts from foreign countries rather than making India self-reliant in the production of raw nuts to feed fully the cashew processing industry here. India has been importing on an average about 1'70 lakh tonnes of raw cashew nuts every year except in the year 1972-73, when the import was to the tune of 1,87,935 tonnes. The internal production and the imported raw nuts together, therefore, fall short of the requirement of the industry by about 1 lakh tonnes every year, resulting in non-utilisation of more than 25 per cent of the total installed capacity of the industry and consequent retrenchment and lay off of thousands of workers.

It should also be mentioned that the imported raw cashew nuts are hardly distributed in a fair and equitable manner. The Central Government and the cashew corporation of India treat the monopoly

houses, like the Mangalore-based Peirce Leslie India Ltd., preferentially all the time. This pro-monopoly policy of distribution of imported raw nuts works against the interest of small and medium cashew processing firms and their workers. Of course, there is nothing abnormal in this policy of the Congress Government at the Centre. The ruling Congress party and its governments having been wedded to the task of safeguarding the aggregate interest of Indian monopoly capitalism, they cannot do otherwise.

Be that as it may, this anti-national anti-people pro-monopoly policy of the government has landed the cashew processing industry into a serious crisis. Firstly because, there is not enough internal production in the country to fully utilise the total installed capacity of the industry. No serious attempt has been made to remove this difficulty. Secondly because, the shortfall in the supply of raw cashew nuts cannot be met by import also. For, India's traditional suppliers of raw cashew nuts, the East African countries, themselves have set up cashew processing industry and after meeting their own requirement whatever surplus raw nuts they still possess, they are exporting them to countries other than India, as such countries are paying them better remunerative price for their raw nuts. These countries include China.

This being the reality, any honest and serious political party with the interest of the country and our people in mind should have striven to compel the Congress Government at the Centre to change its anti-national anti-people pro-monopoly policy, expand the area under cashew plantation rapidly by distributing suitable lands to the rural poor for cashew plantation and helping them financially and otherwise, improve the yield per acre by scientific methods and

ensure fair and equitable distribution of whatever amount of raw cashew nuts can still be imported. It should have tried to organise the people in general and the workers of the cashew processing industry as a whole in particular for the purpose. But strangely, the CPI has not done anything of the sort. It has not even criticised the ruling Congress party and its governments at the Centre and in West Bengal, Orissa and Karnataka and the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu the policies and activities of which have landed the cashew processing industry in our country into its present crisis. It has, in the editorial comment of its Malayalam daily, *Janayugam*, abused China for the present crisis of the industry.

But what is China's fault? China has not prevented India from becoming self-reliant in the production of cashew nuts. It by no means can do it. True, China is purchasing raw nuts from the East African countries. The East African countries are selling raw nuts to China not under duress; they are doing it out of their free will. If India's traditional suppliers of raw cashew nuts now prefer China to their old international customer then none other than the India Government is to blame. To see in it a Mao-Nixon conspiracy and a Chinese

move to destroy our cashew processing industry, as the CPI daily has seen, is to shield the real culprit the Congress party and its government, from public indignation, paint somebody else as the villain of the piece and thereby try to hoodwink our people. It is characteristic of a party that suffers from congenital anti-Chinese bias because of its vassal-like submission to the revisionist Soviet leadership. It is utter servitude to the ruling bourgeoisie in our country, its principal political representative at the moment namely, the ruling Congress party, its governments and their anti-people pro-monopoly policies and activities.

Make believe ideas do not help the people. They, on the contrary, confuse them thereby damaging the growth and development of people's united struggle against their main enemy. We request the CPI to realise it, take facts as they are, not to harbour any illusion about the Congress as progressive, expose the anti-national anti-people pro-monopoly politics and activities of the Congress governments, strive for developing a sustained united mass movement and force the governments to concede the just demands of the people in general and the workers of the cashew processing industry as a whole in particular. In the prevailing situation this is urgently needed.

Haryana to Stage Massive Jathas on 3rd May

Rohtak, April 24—The SUCI, SP, CPI(M), CPI, Republican Party and Backward Class Federation, in observance of the all-India protest day, call for which has been given by different left and democratic parties in the country, have decided to stage Jathas and rallies at all district head quarters and towns in Haryana to register protest against anti-people policies of the Governments at the Centre and in the state and

to demand the lowering of the prices of food and other essential articles and their adequate regular supply at fair prices to the people.

Com. Gyan Singh Chowdhury, Secretary of the Haryana State Organising Committee of the SUCI, has appealed to the people to join the Jathas in thousands and register their strong protest against the Governments.

Sporadic outburst of Popular Indignation is not Revolution

Not Agitational Movement but Protracted Organised Battle alone can save People

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Since 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the entire Esplanade area reverberated with slogans raised by the volunteers from the dais and lustily responded by the assemblage on the Maidan.

On the Dais

The dais was a beautiful piece of artistic architectural workmanship. It was a living replica of hammer, sickle and star, flanked by a bold human figure with broken chains around the hands, symbolising the people breaking the chains of slavery under capitalist rule. On the dais were seated the Central Committee members and other leaders of the Party from different states.

The meeting started with the International sung by the music squad of the DYU. A resolution condoling the death of those heroic sons and daughters in different countries of the world, who had sacrificed their lives in the struggle against imperialism capitalism for national independence, democracy, socialism and world peace as also of those, who had become martyrs in the democratic movements in our country, particularly in the recent movements in Gujarat and Bihar, was moved from the chair and unanimously adopted by meeting observing one minute's silence.

Com. Nihar Mukherjee's Speech

After the Komsomol presented a guard of honour to Com. Shibdas Ghosh, Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee of the SUCI, thanked the people of West Bengal in general and the citizens of Calcutta in particular, who by their sincere co-operation and liberal contribution had helped in making the celebration of the day a grand success. He called upon the people to organise themselves for a sustained united mass movement against their

main common enemy, namely, the ruling bourgeoisie, Congress and its governments. He concluded his speech by appealing to the people to join in thousands the mass law violation movement on May 3 next and to make the Bangla Bandh on May 7 next a complete success.

Agitational Movement

Com. Shibdas Ghosh started his speech on the state of sporadic outbursts of popular indignation now occurring in different states in India. In this connection he said: "India is sitting on a volcano. Any moment there can be an explosion. Look at Gujarat. There is no left movement there; the masses too have got no strength of organisation; there is hardly any leadership. Yet the people of Gujarat burst like a bomb against the corrupt and anti-people Congress rule. Same is the case in Bihar. In West Bengal also, the people are seething with anger and indignation; their endurance has crossed its limit; they want the left parties to take up their cause and conduct mighty mass movement against the Congress governments. If in Gujarat and Bihar, there can be outburst of mass indignation, how is it that no such outburst is taking place in West Bengal, a stronghold of the left parties, with a tradition of militant mass struggles? The people of West Bengal are justly putting this question. We know that Siddharta Babu and his ilk will give the readymade reply that this is so because the people of West Bengal have no confidence in the left parties, they have abandoned the left parties and they do not want movement and disturbance. There is nothing surprising in it. For, a man behaves according to his own intelligence and wisdom. But we cannot be guided by Siddharta Babu's intelligence. We

are to find out the correct reply to this question. There is no doubt that the people will, sooner or later, again mobilise themselves in the arena of struggle. In the past they had fought and made tremendous sacrifices. They will not hesitate to fight again and shed their blood. Circumstances will compel them to do it.

"These sporadic outbursts of the people did not bring about any basic change in their condition. Their future outburst also will not basically change their condition. But why? No matter whether the sporadic outburst of the people takes the form of general strike for several days or the form of militant mass action, it can, in any case, be suppressed by the state power. The security of the existing state or of the ruling class is not endangered by this sort of movement; at best it can create some trouble to the state for a short period. Rather, the ruling bourgeoisie, taking advantage of the disturbed situation, on the one hand, concentrates more power in the hands of the state thereby consolidating it still further and, on the other hand, forcibly suppresses the struggling people with a heavy hand, resulting in the development of defeatist mentality, frustration and inertia among the masses for some time to come. The ruling bourgeoisie, top bureaucrats and military and police officers know it well that so long as the people will have want and dissatisfaction, their indignation will explode into outburst. But they are not afraid of such outbursts, as it is not at all difficult for them to forcibly crush them. It should be realized that sporadic outburst of the people, no matter how militant it is, is not revolution. Nor does sporadic outburst spontaneously lead to

revolution. Revolution means a fundamental change in the socio-political-economic system, a fundamental change of the capitalist power-structure, of the state, its replacement by a new state, a new type of state, what we call a socialist state. It means the replacement of the capitalist system by a socialist system.

"This revolutionary change does not spontaneously grow out sporadic outbursts. Those who try to pass on sporadic outbursts as revolution are either simpletons or shrewd traders in election politics. Revolution is a protracted organised battle of the politically conscious masses of the people organised on the basis of a definite political aim. In other words, for revolution, the masses of the people, politically conscious and with the definite political aim of replacing the existing capitalist power-structure by a socialist state, must have to give birth to political power in an organised form capable of carrying on a protracted organised battle against the existing state power, as the revolutionaries in China had done and those in Vietnam have been still doing. Only when the masses of the people develop such an organised force, they cannot be suppressed by the state with the help of the military."

Election Politics and Sporadic Outbursts

Com. Ghosh said: "In the absence of the establishment of the leadership of a real revolutionary working class party over the masses and their struggles, the indignation of the people is exploited by the rightist forces, the so-called left and pseudo-revolutionary parties for their class and petty party interests of election politics. It should be borne in mind that the election parties, regardless of what names they bear, want the sporadic outburst

of popular indignation as well. They, no doubt, want agitational movements. They do not want the mass movements to go beyond agitation and outburst to take the shape of a protracted organised battle against the state power. They see that if an agitational movement is developed then through that movement hatred and indignation of the people against the existing ruling party and its government can be built up. And the government taking recourse to more repressive measures to forcibly crush the movement, the hatred and indignation will only increase which will pay rich dividend to the opposition election parties at the time of election, helping them to get more seats in the legislature and form the ministry. The agitational movements may bring position, power, pelf and prosperity to the leaders of the election parties but they will never bring about basic changes in the condition of the people.

"But these things apart, why in West Bengal are not movements developing? Has not people's endurance crossed the limit here? Obviously it has. Are not the people seething with indignation against the corrupt Congress regime in the state? Certainly they are. Do not the people sincerely want the left parties to take up their cause and launch a movement? They surely do. But nevertheless, the movement is not taking place. The only reason for this is the peculiar mental make-up and character of the big left parties here. You know that unlike in Gujarat and Bihar where the rightist forces are predominant, in West Bengal it is the left parties alone that can organise the masses for struggle. But these left parties also are not ready to go beyond the agitational form of movement for their election politics. Besides, there is apprehension

Anti-Congressism Without a Programme of Anti-Capitalist Revolution Has Little Difference with Anti-Congressism of Rightist Parties

among these parties that, in the prevailing situation, even agitational movement may land them into trouble. Hence, there is deliberate attempt on their part to keep the outburst of the people within the bounds of protest movement and not resistance movement. This politics of fear and apprehension, this politics of developing movement solely with an eye on election results, are working as stumbling blocks in the path of developing a sustained united mighty mass movement in West Bengal against the corrupt anti-people Congress rule."

Fight against Congress

Com. Ghosh said: "We are to fight against the Congress. There is no doubt about that. But why should we fight against the Congress? Is it because we have personal enmity with the Congressmen? No. At least I do not think that we are fighting the Congress for it. The Congress is making money while we are not in a position to do it. Is it because of it that we are fighting the Congress? No. We think that we have no moral right to fight Congress for that reason. Then why are we opposed to the Congress? The policies of the Congress are bad. But why bad? Are we opposed to the Congress only because the people do not like it? Are we opposed to the Congress simply because we want to bring the people to our fold? We are to get correct replies to these questions if we want to play our role duly. In the prevailing situation in our country, the Congress is the main political party of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie to keep in existence and further consolidate and strengthen the existing capitalist state and capitalist system. But since we want to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism, it is our essential duty to fight the Congress politically. That is why there is little to choose between the anti-Congressism of those left parties which do

not want to overthrow capitalism and the anti-Congressism of the Jana Sangh, SSP, Congress(O), Swatantra Party, BKD or the Pragati Party. What difference is there between the anti-Congressism of those left parties that do not advocate anti-capitalist revolution and the anti-Congressism of the rightist parties?

Our Society is Capitalist Society

Speaking on the character of Indian society Com. Ghosh said: "Ours is a capitalist society. Not only that; it is such capitalism as under it there is now no possibility of uninterrupted industrial development and production. This capitalism, though relatively backward, is part and parcel of crisis-ridden moribund world capitalism. Not that no industrial development or expansion of market is taking place under it. No doubt some new industries are now and then coming up, some expansion of market is sometimes taking place but alongside it many an existing industrial establishment is being closed for various reasons from shortage of raw materials to lack of market and crisis of market is appearing and re-appearing. In the present era of imperialism and the proletarian revolution, more so in the third phase of the period of general crisis of world capitalism marked by the absence of even the relative stability of market, which world capitalist economy used to enjoy till the second world war, nowhere capitalism is succeeding in continuously expanding the market as it could do in the eighteenth century in the epoch of rising capitalism. It is now incapable of continuous expansion of market and carrying out industrial revolution in the country. The capitalism in our country being a part and parcel of world capitalist system is reactionary capitalism. In such a situation, it is all the more impossible for capitalism in a relatively

backward capitalist country like India to do it. As a result, there cannot be mechanisation and modernisation of our agriculture and in spite of the abolition of feudal relations of production in our land system, feudal remnants in the form of habits and customs in rural relationship still exist. It will not help if it is vaguely claimed that "there is feudalism and feudal exploitation." Are there feudal relations of production in our land system? In the land system of our country there is no vestige of feudal relations of production. Capitalist relations of production have replaced them—whatever may be the form of it because of specific conditions of time and space. But since in our country capitalist infiltration in land has not taken place in the way it happened in the eighteenth century through uncompromising revolutionary struggle against feudalism, it has not become possible to mechanise and modernise our agriculture. The so-called Pundits in our country, who in view of absence of overall mechanisation and modernisation of our agriculture refuse to recognise our agriculture as capitalist agriculture, are failing to correctly assess the character of capitalism in the backward capitalist countries in the present era. Because of acute crisis of market, its moribund character and above all its reactionary nature of production-relations, present-day capitalism is not being able to take to the path of uninterrupted industrial development for which capitalism in the backward capitalist countries, in this era, is also failing to mechanise and modernise agriculture. If the door of continuous and uninterrupted industrial development cannot be opened then to mechanise and modernise agriculture would mean making unemployed crores of people

now attached anyhow to the land to eke out their sub-human existence. It would severely contract the already contracted market and, consequently, put so much strain on the capitalist economy of the country that the economy would be on the verge of collapse and the little scope which still remains for industrial development, in spite of the crisis, would be greatly reduced. It is for this reason that the ruling bourgeoisie in our country, to perpetuate as long as possible the present rotten anachronistic reactionary capitalist order, is not introducing in a large scale machines and tractors in our agriculture and, on the contrary, is trying to keep crores and crores of people chained to the land and continue their sub-human condition of living. It is not for nothing that Shastriji at the Nagpur session of the Congress was candid enough to admit that they were not so fools as to make all-out introduction of machines and tractors in agriculture. So when we hear the 'Marxists-Leninists' of our country say that they would oppose the introduction of machines and tractors in our agriculture, it really seems strange to us. In the agrarian programme of these 'Marxists-Leninists' we find the call to link the movement for opposing the introduction of machines and tractors with their anti-feudal revolution. Strange self-contradiction! How can the movement opposing the introduction of machines and tractors be a movement to overthrow feudalism? The introduction of machines in agriculture, on the contrary, will lead to abolition of feudalism in the rural economy, if there be any trace of feudal economy at all. This is the economic law; this is what actually happens. One, who really wants the abolition of feudalism in the rural economy, should conduct movements for the introduction of machines and tractors in

agriculture. But these 'Marxists-Leninists' are talking of abolishing feudalism and giving a call for opposing introduction of machines and tractors in agriculture in the same breath. To oppose the introduction of machines and tractors on the plea that it would increase unemployment is virtually the same logic of the ruling bourgeoisie in our country for not introducing, on a large scale, machines and tractors in our agriculture. Yes, there will be cases where for the introduction of machines and tractors, the people will be unemployed where it will be necessary to organise the people to check unemployment. There the task will be to make the people understand that the people should not be opposed to the introduction of machines and tractors as such. For, without overall mechanisation and modernisation of agriculture the present economic backwardness of the country cannot be overcome, the grinding poverty of the masses of the peasantry removed, extension of market necessary for industrial development achieved, production of enough raw materials for the industries ensured and the door of industrial revolution opened. So for social progress our agriculture has got to be mechanised and modernised. But under the existing capitalist system this cannot be done. Introduction of machines and tractors will render you unemployed and take away from you even the most humble means of livelihood you now enjoy. So the struggle is not against the introduction of machines and tractors as such; the struggle is against capitalism. Be prepared to overthrow it. So long as that cannot be done, the slogan would be 'give us alternative suitable employment otherwise we would not allow the introduction of machines and tractors in agriculture.' Here the main point is

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All Support To The Railwaymen's Struggle

Comrade Prithvi Chanda, Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) All India Committee, has issued the following statement to the Press in support of the proposed indefinite strike by the railwaymen from May 8, 1974 :

"According to the direction of the National Co-ordination Committee for the Railwaymen's Struggle, its constituent units have served notices on the railway authorities for an indefinite strike with effect from 8th May next for the realisation of their long-standing demands. The demands are, *inter alia*, for (1) treating all railwaymen as industrial workmen with working hours not exceeding eight hours a day, (2) evaluation of jobs on scientific basis and reclassification of the railwaymen, (3) payment of need-based minimum wages, pending which immediate parity in wages with the wages of the workmen of the Central Government undertakings, (4) payment of dearness allowance according to the cost of living, supply of rationed articles at subsidized prices through departmentally run shops and payment of bonus, (5) abolition of casual labour system and confirming the casual workers in services and (6) withdrawal of all cases of victimization of the railwaymen for trade union activities.

"Contrary to what the Central Government, railway authorities, ruling Congress party, other reactionary parties and the propaganda media of the present Indian capitalist state are propagating to mislead the people and malign the railwaymen, the above demands of the railwaymen will surely appear to any right-thinking person to be not only reasonable but also extremely modest in view of the spiralling prices of food and other essential commodities and heavy erosion of the purchasing power of the Indian rupee, resulting in steady decline in the real wages of the working people, some increase in

their money income notwithstanding. We strongly support the just demands and the proposed strike by the railwaymen. We urge upon our people in general and the working class in particular to realize the tremendous significance of the railwaymen's strike all over India, inasmuch as its success or failure will have a tremendous impact on the future course of mass struggles against vested interests and reaction in the country. Considering it, our people must not fall a prey to the false and mischievous propaganda of the Government and its hirelings but should come out solidly in support of the railwaymen's demands and their proposed strike.

"The Congress Government, notorious for its nakedly anti-labour pro-employer policies and activities, will not concede the demands of the railwaymen just for the mere asking for them. There is not a single case in the long twenty-six years since independence where the Congress Government has accepted any demand of the people unless and until forced by pressure of mass movement to do so. Negotiation notwithstanding, none should harbour any illusion about negotiated settlement. Harboring such an illusion will work against the psychology and organisational and other preparations necessary for a sustained united hard struggle without which the demands of the railwaymen cannot be realised now. In the circumstances, those in the leadership of the railwaymen who are expressing optimistic views about negotiated settlement and talking of "progress" in the negotiation are certainly not contributing to the preparation for a hard sustained struggle by the railwaymen. It is the time not for spreading illusion about negotiated

settlement but for creating the psychology among the railwaymen and making all-out preparations necessary for a hard sustained struggle against the present capitalist state and the Congress Government.

"For the victory of the struggle the unity of the railway men must be strengthened, all disruptive tendencies fought and sectarianism and petty politics defeated. It is deplorable that a section of the leadership of the railwaymen, on the eve of the proposed strike, has thought it fit to disrupt the unity of the railwaymen by forming another Federation of railwaymen for petty party politics. It is equally deplorable also that back-stage manoeuvres were resorted to by some to deny to a substantial number of railwaymen, noted for their consistent role in fighting all disruptionist moves and in developing united struggles of the railwaymen, their due representation in the National Co-ordination Committee for the Railwaymen's Struggle. The railwaymen must beware of these sectarian moves lest these would weaken their unity and work against their proposed struggle.

"The Prime Minister, Railway Minister and other big guns in the ruling Congress party and the Government have been speaking of meeting the railwaymen's "challenge" in case the strike takes place. This is no empty threat. The Indian capitalist state and the Congress Government have been making preparations for all-out fascistic attacks on the railwaymen. In fact, these attacks have already started. The only way of defeating the attacks and realising the demands is to cement still more solidly the unity of the railwaymen, sharpen their political consciousness, prepare mentally for a sustained hard struggle against those forces which

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By The Way

The Congress Government at the Centre has decided to allow substantial upward revision in the prices of most of the essential drugs. The West Bengal Government has increased the retail prices of baker's bread. It has also before it a proposal to raise the prices of milk supplied by it. According to this proposal, "standard milk which now costs Rs 1.16 a litre would cost at least Rs 1.50 per litre; double-tone milk would cost more than Rs 1.00 a litre against its existing price of 84 paise and the fat content of cow's milk would be reduced" (the last one is euphemism for adulterating milk with more water than at present). These are, among others, three news items published in the Calcutta dailies dated 20th April last. Of late, the Central Government has raised the prices of controlled coarse cloth by about 40 per cent. Pledged to eradicate poverty of the down-trodden masses of the people and uplift their level of living to a "satisfactory" level as the Congress and its governments are, these measures by the Congress governments at the Centre and in West Bengal cannot but be a step in that direction. So let us all support whole-heartedly the ruling Congress and its governments for all these 'garibi-hatao' measures.

* * *

For the first time in Kerala, the CPI-led Government in the state has imposed on the peasants an irrigation cess at the rate of Rs 25.00 per acre. The cess is expected to yield Rs 2.50 crore annually. The State Government has justified this new levy on the ground that "prices of agricultural produce have been rising steadily and, so, a part of the investment on irrigation projects should be realised from those who are benefited by it. This is the argument advanced by all the reactionary governments when they tax the poor to fatten the purse of the rich. One can justify the imposition of irrigation cess on the rich peasants who are actually benefited by price hike of agricultural produce. But it can by no means be said that the landless and poor peasants of Kerala, who are living a sub-human life, are benefited by the abnormal rise in the prices of agricultural produce. On the contrary they are being more pauperised for the spiralling of prices of all essential commodities. In the circumstances, the landless and poor peasants should have been exempted from payment of the newly imposed irrigation cess. But the "progressive" CPI-led Government in Kerala has not done it, it has bracketed the landless and poor peasants with the rich peasants. The CPI considers the rich peasants an ally of their national democratic revolution in our country. How then can they single out the rich peasants and tax them, excluding the landless and poor peasants? That would be betraying a friend.

Observe Assam Bandh on 3rd May

Gauhati, April 20—The left and democratic parties in Assam, including the SUCI, CPI(M), PDP, RCPI, SP, RSP and CPI, according to the decision of the meeting of the left and democratic parties in the country held at New Delhi, have decided to observe May 3, 1974 as an all-India protest day, by giving a call for Assam Bandh on May 3 next to protest against the policies of the Govern-

ments and to demand immediate steps to reduce the prices of food and other essential commodities and ensure their regular and adequate supply at prices within the reach of the people. Com. Ashit Bhattacharya, Secretary of the Assam State Committee of the SUCI, has appealed to the people of the state to make the Bandh a complete success by all means.

Build up Sustained United Mass Movements

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We further note that in spite of the present international situation being very favourable objectively for the development of mighty upsurges of revolutionary struggles against imperialism capitalism and winning fresh laurels, the world communist camp is rifted today owing to failure of the major Communist Parties to conduct the ideological struggle to resolve correctly the ideological differences confronting the world communist movement according to the dialectical materialist principle of unity-struggle-unity and communist code of conduct free from animosity necessary for conducting criticism and self-criticism. The US imperialists are taking full advantage of the rift in the world communist camp in furtherance of their imperialist machinations. We strongly feel that without making any compromise whatsoever on the question of principle and basic policy and without relenting for a single moment in conducting ideological struggles to correctly resolve the ideological differences between them the Communist Parties and the Socialist States must move jointly and unitedly against world imperialism with a view to accelerating and further strengthening the revolutionary struggles for national independence, democracy and socialism and the peace movement directed against unjust wars in different countries of the world. This united action and solidarity of the communist camp against world imperialism are of paramount importance in the present situation. We are striving and will continue to strive for it till we reach our goal.

The working class in our country also has many glorious victories to their credit. But, in spite of these glorious victories, the fact remains that the working class and other sections of the exploited

masses of our people are still groaning under the yoke of capitalist rule. With the capture of power, the ruling Indian bourgeoisie, with a view to developing India as a powerful capitalist country in the shortest possible time, is taking the country along the fascistic path through Social-Democratic measures under the smoke-screen of so-called radical utterances. For that purpose it has mounted attacks on our people from all sides, precipitating a suffocating situation in the country. An overall crisis has engulfed the life of our people.

Our people are not ready to take these attacks lying down. They are burning with anger and indignation against the bourgeois rule and the Congress administration responsible for their present acute sufferings. This hatred and indignation, sometimes and in some places, are expressing themselves in spontaneous sporadic outbursts of mass action. But in the absence of the establishment of the leadership of a real revolutionary working class party over the masses and their movements, in the absence of the people's own organ of struggle, and for the failure of the left and democratic parties in our country to form a political united front of the left and democratic parties and forces on the basis of an agreed common programme, thereby providing our people with an instrument of united struggles against their common enemy, namely, the ruling bourgeoisie, the ruling Congress, the main political representative in the present situation of the ruling bourgeoisie and its governments, the indignation of the people and their sporadic struggles are being exploited by the rightist forces, the so-called left parties and the pseudo-revolutionaries for their reactionary and opportunist election politics. The recent

incidents in Gujarat and Bihar are glaring instances of it.

There is no denying the fact that the multifarious problems, that now poison and plague the life of our people, are the inevitable outcome of the existing capitalist power-structure and capitalist system in our country. Unless and until the present capitalist power-structure and capitalist system are replaced by a socialist state and a socialist system through an anti-capitalist socialist revolution in our country, these problems will not be basically solved. But anti-capitalist socialist revolution will not fall from heaven one fine morning. It requires a correct base political line with a correct programme of action for the anti-capitalist, socialist revolution, the existence of an effective and real revolutionary party capable of conducting the people's struggles in the right direction to their logical conclusion, establishment of the leadership of this party over the masses and their struggles and formation of instrument of united struggle against the main common enemy of the people which, in the present stage of development of democratic movement in our country, cannot be anything but a political united front of the left and democratic parties and forces based on an agreed common programme. These are *sine qua non* for organising the masses on a correct political line, isolating the reactionary and opportunist parties from the masses of the people, establishing the ideological-political and organisational leadership of a real revolutionary working class party over the masses, their organisations and their struggles, raising the democratic movements from higher to still higher level and ultimately creating conditions for revolutionary seizure of power by the working class in alliance with other exploited masses of the people. Struggle for fulfilment of the above-mentioned conditions is of paramount importance and

Railwaymen should remain vigilant against disruption

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are taking India along fascistic path, build up necessary organisation for such a movement and remain vigilant against disruption and sabotage of the struggle.

"The railwaymen's struggles had in the past been betrayed many times by their leadership. Notwithstanding their tremendous sacrifice and sufferings, their demands could not then be realised. This could happen, because the railwaymen allowed themselves to be betrayed by remaining oblivious of the necessity of correct leadership for the success of a movement. It is the vigilance of the railwaymen, their correct political consciousness, their determination to carry on the struggle till the victory is won, their solid unity and above all a clear foresight and necessary organisational measures taken beforehand to forestall any betrayal by the leadership that alone can prevent such a betrayal. The railwaymen can ill afford to ignore these vital matters on the threshold of another big struggle.

"The railwaymen have the full backing of ours and the people in their struggle against the present regime for the realisation of their just demands. Victory will be theirs if they organise themselves correctly and play their individual and collective role duly. There is no doubt about it."

the need of the hour.

This is the call of May Day of this year in our country. Let our working class march ahead according to this correct line, rejecting all other opportunist pseudo-revolutionary lines dished out by the pseudo-revolutionary parties and hasten the day of the emancipation of our people from all sorts of exploitation of man by man, economic, political, social and cultural.

Disruptionist Games

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obscurant and communal forces, has been invited by the CPI(M) and the SP to attend the meeting to decide the form of action in Haryana in violation of the decision of the meeting at New Delhi.

These moves of the CPI(M) leadership clearly show that they are as much opposed to the inclusion of the SUCI as they are eager to combine with reactionary parties like the Kerala Congress and the Arya Samaj. And these things are being done not only in utter violation of the decision of the meeting of the left and democratic parties at New Delhi but also in the name of developing unity of the left and democratic parties and forces. Is it the way of forging unity of the left and democratic parties and forces and developing united mass movements against the Congress, its Governments and their anti-people policies, the necessity of which the CPI(M) leadership mouth off and on or is it a move to sabotage the decision of the New Delhi meeting to develop unity of the left and democratic parties and forces and united mass movements? We request the ranks of the CPI(M) to judge for themselves if these moves by the leadership of their party are conducive to leftism, left and democratic unity and united mass movements.

Lenin Birthday Observed

Kanti (Bihar), April 22—The Kanti units of the DYO and the DSO observed today the birthday of Lenin. On this occasion a big meeting was held at Sain under the presidency of Com. Mundrika Pandey, Secretary of Kanti local committee of the SUCI.

Com. Baleswar Rasulpuri, main speaker of the meeting, explained the teachings of Lenin and, on the basis of them, showed that India was in

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Correct Base Political Line of Anti-Capitalist Socialist Revolution, United Front of Left and Democratic Parties and Forces, Leadership of a Real Revolutionary Party over Masses and their Struggles—Need of the Hour

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that the people want the introduction of machines and tractors and for that they are to overthrow capitalism which is standing in the way of such an introduction whereas in the case of the so-called Marxists-Leninists it is altogether a different proposition, they are opposed to the introduction of machines and tractors as such without any reference to the necessity of overthrowing capitalism.

Present Tasks

Com. Ghosh requested the audience to realise that the overall crisis in the life of the people in our country is the inevitable outcome of the present reactionary capitalist system in our country, made worse by the most inefficient and corrupt practices of the ruling party and the administration as also the anti-people pro-capitalist policies and activities of the Congress governments. He said: "Unless and until the existing capitalist power-structure and capitalist system can be replaced through an anti-capitalist socialist revolution by a socialist state and a socialist system, the problems in the life of the people will not be basically solved. Those who are talking of agrarian revolution or of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal and anti-monopoly capitalist people's democratic revolution, if by these terms they do not mean some reforms, some administrative measures under the existing socio-political-economic system, if by these terms they mean revolution against the present Indian state, then that revolution cannot be anything but an anti-capitalist socialist revolution."

But, he said that when in our country the masses of the people still harboured illusion about parliamentarism and were under

the influence of bourgeois, petty-bourgeois, so-called left and pseudo-revolutionary parties, a correct base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution with a correct programme of action had not been crystallized, the ideological-political-organisational leadership of an effective and real revolutionary working class party had not been established over the masses and their struggles and, last but not least, the masses had not developed their own organs of struggle, it was idle to think of achieving this revolution here and now. In the particular stage of development of mass movement in our country, united front of left and democratic parties and forces on the basis of an agreed common programme was the way to achieve them. Com. Ghosh, summing up the present tasks, said: "To formulate the correct base political line of anti-capitalist socialist revolution with a correct programme of action, to form a political united front of the left and democratic parties and forces on the basis of an agreed common programme thereby providing the masses with an instrument of united struggles against their main common enemy and to establish the leadership of a real revolutionary working class party over the masses, their organisations and struggles are the three essential conditions for the growth, development and success of the united democratic mass movements, their reaching their logical conclusion, lifting these movements to higher and still higher levels, creating conditions for seizure of power and ultimate emancipation of our people from all sorts of exploitation."

"So, in the end, I appeal to you to realize that for your very existence you will have to struggle again sooner or later; you will

have to make many more sacrifices; you will have to shed your blood. When that has got to be done in any case, never forget to be convinced of three things—you are to be convinced of the correctness of the base political line of struggle; you are to be convinced that the party leading the struggle is a real revolutionary working class party; you are to be convinced that the party is powerful to lead the struggle to its logical goal. The question of supporting a party arises only when you are convinced that it is a real revolutionary working class party, otherwise not. Those who are speaking of any revolution other than anti-capitalist revolution, actually believe in the progressive role of capitalism, though they may be chary of admitting it in public. Or, they may be benefited in some way or other by the capitalist class (we do not say that every individual is benefited) and, so, they see to it that the people do not go against the entire capitalist class, against the entire bourgeois class. They are at the same time to speak of revolution also. Had it not been so, they would have realised that there is no way of freeing the country from the yoke of the rule of monopoly capitalism without overthrowing the bourgeoisie from state power and destroying the capitalist state machine. The SUCI has all through been trying its best to show you that way. It is the SUCI alone which has kept aloft the revolutionary banner of Marxism-Leninism and been whole-heartedly trying to organise the masses of the people and lead their struggles for revolutionary transformation of our society on the correct base political line of anti capitalist socialist revolution, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism as concretised on the Indian soil. So strengthen the SUCI. To accept truly

revolutionary politics, create a proper and healthy atmosphere for carrying on polemical discussions, debates, arguments and counter-arguments. Fight in your own party against blindness and party fanaticism. For, blindness, party fanaticism, irrationality and lack of philosophical tolerance of other's point of view provide a favourable ground for all reactionary and obscurant ideas to penetrate into different walks of life which gives fascism the

opportunity to vegetate in society widely and rapidly. Develop movements so as to be able to find out and crystallize the correct base political line, strengthen the leadership of the correct party and form united front of the left and democratic parties and forces on the basis of an agreed common programme and develop united struggles with a view to materialising one day armed insurrection of the people for seizure of power. Long live revolution."

Central Committee of SUCI Supports Railwaymen's Strike

Calcutta April 29—

The Central Committee of the SUCI led by its General Secretary, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, met at Calcutta on 27th and 28th April last and adopted a resolution extending "full support to the just and modest demands of the railwaymen and their decision for an indefinite strike from 8th May next". It "urged upon the people not to be misled by the mischievous

propaganda by the Government against the railwaymen but to back their demands and the proposed strike by all means". It also "called upon the railwaymen to cement their unity, develop the psychology necessary for a sustained hard united struggle, make organisational and other preparations for such a struggle and be on guard against any possible move from any quarter to sabotage their movement".

Lenin Birthday observed

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the stage of anti capitalist socialist revolution. He laid great emphasis on the essential necessity of conducting relentless struggles to upgrade the ethical and cultural standard and remould the character for becoming a true disciple of Lenin. He concluded by saying

that "those who sneer at ethics and morality as a 'bourgeois fad' only vulgarise Marxism—Leninism and are tarnishing its noble banner."

Other speakers in the meeting included Coms. Pradyot Sharma, Shib Shankar Gupta, Arun Kumar Sinha and Satyendra Kumar Pandey. After the meeting a colourful procession went round the area.

Observe Bangla Bandh on 7th May, 1974